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SUBJECT: DAILY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE PRESS 08/09/07

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ARTICLES:

(1) US vice president meets with Defense Minister Koike, hopes for extension of Antiterrorism Special Measures Law

YOMIURI ONLINE (Full)
August 9, 2007 12:51

Defense Minister Koike, who is currently visiting the US, met with US Vice President Cheney at the White House during the afternoon of August 8 (Japan time: early morning of August 9). Regarding an extension of the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law, which is set to expire on November 1, Koike stated: "An extension is necessary for Japan to meet the expectations of the international community, which has placed trust in us. I want to keep up efforts to convince the opposition parties (who oppose the law)."

The vice president expressed his hope for an extension of the law, which will allow for continued support from the Self-Defense Forces, saying: "We highly value the support that Japan has provided under the Koizumi and Abe administrations."

In discussing China's military strength, the vice president showed wariness, saying: "(The Chinese military) has rapidly modernized in recent years, and their capabilities are improving. We are interested in where China's long term strategic goals lie."

Before meeting with the vice president, Koike met with former US Deputy Secretary of State Armitage, who indicated: "If (the Self-Defense Forces' support) ceases, the Japan-US alliance will suffer a setback."

In a meeting with US Secretary of Defense Gates on the morning of August 8 (Japan time: the night of August 8), Koike brought up the selection of the next-generation mainstay combat aircraft (FX), saying: "Securing a deterrent is essential." Although Koike made this statement with the thought of obtaining the state-of-the-art F-22 fighter jet, the export of which is prohibited by US law, Secretary Gates simply replied: "We want to continue discussing the

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issue with Japan."

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(2) Chief Cabinet Secretary Shiozaki: "The DPJ is not made up of Ozawa alone"

ASAHI ONLINE (Full)
August 9, 2007 12:49 pm

In response to Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) President Ozawa's assertion to US Ambassador to Japan Schieffer that he opposes an extension of the Anti-terrorist Special Measures Law, Chief Cabinet Secretary Shiozaki, at a press conference this morning, commented:

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"The DPJ is not made up of Ozawa alone. I think there are many different opinions (within the party)." His statement brought attention to the internal split within the DPJ, with some in the party supporting an extension of the law.

Shiozaki also rebutted Ozawa's remarks that the war on terrorism in Afghanistan was a war that President Bush started without gaining the approval of the international community, saying: "During the 9/11 attacks, 24 Japanese died. The entire world, including Japan, must unite in the fight against terrorism. (The war in Afghanistan) is not a selfish war started by the US."

(3) Editorial: Ozawa vs. US envoy-DPJ's competence to take office called into question

YOMIURI (Page 3) (Full)
August 9, 2007

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) may be branded as incompetent to take office. There is probably no way to deny such a view.

DPJ President Ichiro Ozawa and US Ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer met at the DPJ's headquarters over the issue of extending the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law.

Schieffer requested the DPJ's cooperation in order for Japan to

continue the Maritime Self-Defense Force's current seaborne refueling activities for multinational forces in the Indian Ocean.

Ozawa, however, stressed his standpoint as follows: "President Bush said, 'This is a war of the United States.' The president launched the war without waiting for international consensus." Ozawa added, "Japan cannot participate in the US-led operations, but we'd like to participate in operations authorized by the United Nations."

Ozawa perhaps meant to say he is opposed to engaging the MSDF in its current activities because such activities are not confirmed by the UN Security Council in its resolution.

His standpoint seems strange to us.

The MSDF has been operating there as a part of the multinational forces' mop-up operations against terrorists. Their antiterror operations are based on UNSC Resolution 1368, which was adopted after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. The multinational forces' member troops from about 20 countries-including the United States, Britain, France, Canada, and South Korea-have been operating in Afghanistan. In the Indian Ocean are 17 naval vessels from eight countries, including Japan, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Pakistan.

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The Afghan antiterror campaign is not what Ozawa calls "an American war." It is a joint operation conducted by the international community against terrorists.

Ozawa indicated that it would be possible for Japan to participate in the Afghanistan-based International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) that is based on UNSC Resolution 1386.

However, it would not be a down-to-earth option for Japan to do so.

Washington has sounded out Tokyo time and again on the possibility of the Ground Self-Defense Force sending heavy-lift helicopters to the ISAF. The Japanese government has refused to do so because that is dangerous. The MSDF's current refueling activities are far less dangerous. The MSDF is highly appreciated by the international community for its refueling role. The MSDF's refueling activities can be called personnel contributions that are in the national interests of Japan.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban-which once ruled Afghanistan-is regaining strength. The international community's antiterror movement is now at the moment of truth.

In the meeting, Schieffer also underscored the significance of Japan's contributions to the international community's antiterror efforts for the security of Japan and the world. We wonder if Ozawa might have forgotten that Japan is also a target of international terrorists.

The DPJ, in its campaign pledge for this July's House of Councillors election, emphasized its stance of building "rocksolid, equal Japan-US relations based on mutual trust." The meeting of Ozawa and Schieffer was opened in its entirety to the media. Ozawa probably wanted to show his stance of saying to the United States what he should say in an aim to play up the DPJ's presence.

However, Ozawa said nothing about what Japan should do in line with its national interests. This is extremely regrettable.

(4) Editorial: Extension of antiterrorism law needs hard justification

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
August 9, 2007

A meeting was held yesterday between Democratic Party of Japan President Ichiro Ozawa and US Ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer to discuss the question of expending the Antiterrorism Special Measure Law, slated to expire on November 1.

Schieffer sought Ozawa's understanding of the extension, saying that the operation is essential for the security of Japan as well. In response, Ozawa reiterated his opposition, saying that the operation in the Indian Ocean, in which the Self-Defense Force is also taking part, is not authorized by a UN Security Council resolution, adding that Japan is not allowed to conduct a joint operation with the United States in an area irrelevant to the peace and security of Japan.

The DPJ has consistently opposed the antiterrorism law. There seems to be every reason for Ozawa to oppose the extension, given the results of the July House of Councillors election.

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In the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the government enacted the antiterrorism law as time-limited legislation good only for two years. The law has been the legal basis for the Maritime Self-Defense Force's mission in the Indian Ocean to supply fuel and water to naval vessels of 11 countries that are engaged in the operation of blocking the transport of drugs, which provide funds to terrorist organizations, and weaponry and ammunition, which are used in terrorist attacks.

The government eyes the law's extension for the fourth time. A time-limited law is an emergency measure to the last. The law in principle must be abolished when it expires.

An extension requires solid justification, though such has never been presented in the past.

Diet deliberations have always been dull on this highly controversial law. In fact, the two chambers effectively discussed the law's extension for just two days last October.

The people want to know about the other countries' activities in the Indian Ocean and the amount of drugs and weapons blocked by them. They also want to know if Japan, whose mission is limited to refueling foreign vessels, is really contributing to countering terrorism. All those factors are essential in making a decision on the law's extension.

The government has not disclosed activities by Japan and other countries, saying that such must be kept secret from the terrorists. The government has silenced the opposition parties without presenting any concrete justification, saying that withdrawal from the Indian Ocean would harm the Japan-US alliance and drive Japan into international isolation.

Further, the government has yet to explain the condition for terminating the MSDF mission.

During Lower House deliberations last year, then Defense Agency Director-General Fumio Kyuma said: "We find it difficult to call off (MSDF activities) before an international trend is created for (withdrawal). Japan cannot withdraw ahead of other countries."

Japan clearly lacks an independent perspective. The war on terrorism that shows no signs of ending has also fueled public concern that the MSDF mission, too, might continue forever.

The DPJ must force the government into disclosing MSDF activities by thoroughly exercising its investigative powers. We also want to see the DPJ's counterproposal.

Japan cannot overlook the grave situation in Afghanistan.

If the government cannot offer an explanation, it should consider the option of ending the special measures law for now and letting the ruling and opposition camps reexamine the overall counterterrorism measures to obtain public support.

(5) Interview with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki on the opposition-controlled Upper House

August 8, 2007

The House of Councillors election delivered a harsh result, and that was mainly because of the pension fiasco. Although we have implemented measures in quick succession, a sense of distrust of the government was deep seated among the public. On top of that, there were improprieties by cabinet ministers and socioeconomic changes, such as the declining birthrate combined with a rapidly aging population. Also, (the structures) of local areas are changing. There are two sides to reforms: bright and dark. And we failed to obtain sufficient support for our measures on the dark side. Our message was also insufficient. Furthermore, the election campaign was void of in-depth policy debate.

The Abe cabinet's policies for the last 10 months have not been widely recognized, and for that I am responsible as the officer in charge of public affairs. All cabinet ministers -- not just the prime minister -- now have the same homework. (Looking back at government responses to improprieties by cabinet ministers), we should have offered more convincing explanations to the public.

(About Prime Minister Abe staying in office), I gave thought to what the people, the media, and other LDP members might think. But in the end, I decided that it is a matter for the prime minister to decide and that I should follow his decision as chief cabinet secretary.

The age of pork-barrel politics is over. I believe the goal of structural reform was to help increase the independence of all people, from large companies, small companies, mom and pop operations, pensioners, to those on welfare. Social ills require treatment to improve the foundation. A painkiller does not cure the illness.

The approach led by the Kantei (Prime Minister's Official Residence) has achieved many things. The environment is a good example. I am aware (that Prime Minister Abe has been criticized for giving important posts to his close friends), but I am certain that he will place the right people in the right places (in shuffling his cabinet and the LDP executive posts.)

It is essential for the Democratic Party of Japan to debate policies in a responsible manner. I believe the party will be able to come up with the right answer to the question of the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law if it discusses it as a policy instead of a law. During the "financial Diet session" (of 1988), the opposition parties conducted serious discussions and came up with ideas that were not so different from ours. If the DPJ conducts thorough discussion as a responsible party, diversified views in the party can converge into the one we hold. Engaging in a political battle for the sake of a political battle would take a heavy toll on the people, and Japan would be an international loser.

(6) Interview with Yoichi Masuzoe, Upper House LDP Policy Board chairman:

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
August 9, 2007/08/09

Yoichi Masuzoe: Whenever cabinet ministers have committed gaffes, Masuzoe has not been afraid to criticize the prime minister, even though he is a senior member of the LDP in the House of Councillors, saying for example, "If you keep silent, the people will abandon

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you." After graduating from the University of Tokyo Law Faculty, he served as an assistant professor at that university and then gained renown as a political scientist. He ran as a candidate backed by the LDP for a proportional representation seat in the 2001 Upper House election for the first time and was elected, garnering the largest number of votes at 1.58 million among all candidates, He was reelected in the latest Upper House election, and he assumed the

current post in October of last year. He is 58 years old.

-- You were critical of Prime Minister Abe's decision to stay in power, weren't you?

The LDP has lapsed into a state of shock (since it suffered a crushing defeat in the Upper House election). The party has no energy to pick a new president. Why doesn't a rival appear to challenge Prime Minister Abe? My criticism reflects my disappointment at and sorrow over our party's loss of such vigor and energy. But since the prime minister decided to stay on, it is meaningless to discuss the propriety of his staying in power. We must now consider how to reconstruct the party and the cabinet.

-- What task do you think the Abe administration must address first?

Since the administration was defeated as a result of the public fiercely reacting to the pension fiasco, it should steadily carry out its policy decisions. The administration must make efforts to overcome the public's dissatisfaction. There will be no other way but for it to do its best in a visible manner.

-- Debate on a revision of the Constitution, a key challenge for the prime minister, might be downplayed.

There are a pile of tasks that must be urgently tackled, such as pension and regional discrepancies. It is essential to address pocketbook issues first. Even so, it is not correct to think that the seal was put on the challenge of constitutional revision.

-- Do you think the prime minister will be able to regain the political ground he lost by reorganizing his cabinet?

If he fails to pick proper persons in forming a new cabinet, it will become hopeless. The second main reason for the party's election defeat was the presence of immature and unsophisticated cabinet ministers. The prime minister lacked the ability to control his cabinet.

-- What type of persons do you think are suitable for ministerial posts?

The prime minister should select the right person for the right job. There are proper persons for each portfolio without fail. For instance, no one, including even those who dislike him personally, should raise objections to an appointment of Mr. Ishiba (as defense minister).

-- Some suggest private citizens should be included in the cabinet in order to clean up its image.

That won't work. It is more important to strengthen solidarity in the party, and such buzzwords such as duty and obligations, order, appeal to the public, or image are unnecessary. Changing his ways,

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the prime minister must become a tougher leader. He was so gentle that (he defended cabinet minister who caused trouble), resulting in bringing about the current situation.

-- In the Upper House, stormy deliberations on submitted bills are expected.

I am not much worried about it. In the latest ordinary Diet session, the House of Representatives, in which the ruling coalition holds two-thirds of all the seats, ran wild, so the Upper House had to clean up the mess. Since the main opposition party (the Democratic Party of Japan) has control of the Upper House, such reckless acts will be prevented.

-- What will happen if the opposition camp takes a clearly confrontational stance?

The Upper House is referred to as the Seat of Common Sense. The Upper House DPJ is similar to an independent state, like the Upper

House LDP. Although the National Referendum Bill was rammed through the Lower House, the Upper House passed it without hitch. It is the best way in the Upper House for the ruling coalition and the DPJ in cooperation to proceed with deliberations at a safe speed. The two-chamber system becomes significant.

-- Do you think a two-party system will develop now?

I think that is a good possibility. Although the LDP cannot hand over the reins of government, we can learn lessons from the current experience, when considering the future of Japanese politics from a wider standpoint. The DPJ should not be arrogant over their victory in the election. Modestly listening to the people, the party should take measures that meet the public's expectations. Shinshinto (the New Frontier Party) was unsuccessful because it was unable to meet public expectations.

-- DPJ President Ichiro Ozawa is trying to force the administration to dissolve the House of Representatives.

Even if he tries to bring about a general election by creating turmoil in the political situation, the people will not be convinced. In such a case, the DPJ will lose the Lower House election. Even if the DPJ submits and adopts a censure resolution against cabinet ministers, their resignation will be unnecessary unless the people approve it. If the opposition camp misreads the right timing for submitting it, that's the end of the party. The party should not resort to such a drastic measure. President Ozawa must be aware of it.

(7) Tendency among young people in Japan to take to nationalism

NIKKEI (Page 18) (Full)
Eve., August 8, 2007

Recently, the number of young people who are taking to nationalism has been on the rise. The Nikkei interviewed Masachi Osawa, a sociologist and professor at Kyoto University about this phenomenon that is growing among youth.

Interviewer: Masashi Miyagawa

A Japanese animation television series, "Code Geass -- Lelouch of
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the Rebellion" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_Geass) has now caught on in a big way with "otaku" (computer geeks) youngsters. A huge number of responses are posted on the Internet after it was broadcast in a late-night slot for television. This series is seen as a big hit since another animation television series, "Neon Genesis Evangelion" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_Geass). Nationalism, I think, is the main theme of that animation.

The plot is like this:

The superpower, the Holy Empire of Britannia has conquered Japan and renamed it "Area 11" as a colony. The superpower sneered at Japanese people, calling them "elevens." To win independence, a youngster called Lelouch, who led the "Black Knights", has risen in revolt against the superpower. The fight between the "Empire of Britannia" and the "Black Knights" sounds like the conflict between the United States and Al-Qaeda.

Strong sentiments, such as getting wildly excited at Japan's national soccer team, can be found among young people. Aggressive verbal attacks by young people against leftists are flying around the Internet blogs. Such action is different from that of conventional nationalists.

Sometime in the past, psychologist Rika Kayama described the behavior of young people who sang the Japanese national anthem "Kimigayo" (His Majesty's Reign) in a carefree fashion in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers as "petit nationalism." Now, Osawa characterizes present-day nationalistic young people as being in "paradoxical self-absorption." Why are young people taking to nationalism, in spite of their lacking any traditional Japanese roots? The reasons

appear linked to what they call the unlucky situation they are placed in.

According to one opinion survey, young people are not necessarily proud of Japan or of being Japanese. And they do not necessarily have confidence in Japan, either. This sense of "unluckiness" is widely shared among young people. This sense is perhaps strongly felt by "freeters" or job-hopping part-timers. A lack of income is one reason, but there is a more serious reason: They cannot sense they are needed by society or even recognized in society. Even full-time workers working after hours are unable to think that their jobs lead to universal values, for instance, such as the ones seen in the NHK TV program "Project X," a program spotlighting superior craftsmanship.

Those who have this kind of unluckiness sense something deceptive about ethically plausible slogans like "Let observe school rules." They therefore bash liberals or leftists who are protective of postwar democracy.

Osawa takes note of an essay written by a 31-year-old freeter, Tomohiro Akagi, titled 'I want to beat 'Masao Maruyama' (liberal political scientist), carried by the 2007 January issue of the monthly magazine Ronza. In the essay, Akagi claimed that all the have-nots can do is to get out of their difficulties by causing the society to grow more fluid.

Destructive impulses, as evidenced by the criminal acts of the Aum cult, may sweep away the sense of unluckiness. The same goes for joining a commune that openly rejects universal social values. Reality is more acutely felt from acts directly associated with

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human relations than plausible terms like human rights and peace. If so, ideas are necessary to make young people keenly realize through direct relations with others that they are living as part of the society, instead of having them chant such words as love for humanity, in order to contain this sort of rising nationalism among young people.

Masahi Osawa: Born in Nagano Prefecture in 1958; graduated from University of Tokyo; is a sociologist and the author of such books as Seiai to Shihonshugi (Eros and Capitalism), Denshi Media Ron (A Study of Electronic Media); and the most recently published book Nashonarizumu no Yurai (Origin of Nationalism) published by Kodansha.

SCHIEFFER